

ER 10-4709/a

22 JUN1958

Mr. Bert Eaton *card*

Dear Mr. Eaton:

I have your letter of 13 June and greatly appreciate your very kind comments. It is a pleasure for me to send you my autographed picture as you requested.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

O/DCI *[redacted]* jnf 17 June 58

Dist:

Orig - Addressee w/picture

1 - DCI

1 - Col. Grogan

1 - AAB via READING

1 - ER *- my basis*

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *E*)

10-4709

Hon. Allen W. Dulles,  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am writing to you as a student of the most fascinating of all subjects, the American political scene. I recently succumbed to one of the minor vices of our time, that of compiling a "collection". Not of old glass or buttons, firearms or picture postcards, but of political personalities. I acquired a handsome album and set about recording a kind of history of our era and of the men who are creating that history.

Party affiliation has played no part in my choice of personalities. There have been, and are now, great men in both parties. I am compelled to salute the man and his deeds and his ideals rather than the party label. Nor can I haphazardly compile a collection of men merely because they happen to hold political office.

My collection consists of biographies put together from pertinent newspaper and magazine clippings and the like. But, in its inception, it lacked a touch which would change it from a mere scrapbook of clippings into a prized personal possession. In order to achieve this status for my undertaking I must turn to the men I most admire.

At this point I have been greatly heartened by the generous response of those to whom I have written. This has given me the courage to write to you. Oddly, I find that the more I respect and admire a person, the more hesitant I am to presume upon his time and his indulgence to me, a stranger.

I have prepared a page in my album devoted to your public career, highlighted by your genuinely outstanding service as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Yours has been one of the truly distinguished records of accomplishment in recent history of public service. I am addressing this letter to you because of my sincere admiration for you as a man and a leader. It would be pointless to try to enumerate the many reasons I have for wishing to include you in my album. Able writers than I have already acknowledged your stature in our great society.

Customarily, I have requested an autograph on the enclosed card, but in this instance, and at the risk of seeming entirely presumptuous, I am going to ask for a personally signed photograph. I would consider it a great honor if you would share in my collection.

With my warm personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

June 13, 1958.

*W. E. Eaton*